

*X-Boys 2 J.C. STENNIS*  
*X-Par 2 R.S. McNAMARA*  
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**STILL GOP ISSUE**

# Democrats Can't Shake Off Cuba

BY DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON — A political theory adhered to by President Kennedy is being severely tested by the Cuban uproar and the effort to lump tax reform with tax cuts.

The theory is that by putting Republicans in the hot spots,

the Republican partisan opposition will be restrained and public suspicion dampened. Thus Republican Robert McNamara, defense secretary, was moved over to the State Department auditorium to answer GOP critics on Cuba. Republican John McCone, chairman of the Central Intelligence Agency, furnishes the intelligence estimates.



MISS FLEESON

Similarly, Republican Douglas Dillon, Treasury secretary, leads the tax fight. Its prospects are rated less than brilliant.

**EVEN IF** these helpers had a following in Congress—and none has—today's story would be about the same, especially with respect to Cuba. Republicans believe they have a good issue, and they are riding it. They will press their case in the coming inquiry by the Stennis investigating subcommittee of the Senate.

They had been subdued by the success of the Kennedy Cuban policy last fall though they thought it timed for its effect on the election. Then Sen. Robert Kennedy reopened the wounds of the Bay of Pigs fiasco and they reacted predictably.

For a time it appeared that nothing in the nature of

ular on TV was in prospect. The same debaters took the stage with one side prevailing one week and the other the next in the headlines.

But the President, ever sensitive to public opinion, took alarm and is leading his troops in the struggle for the country's confidence. A whole series of reverses abroad no doubt influenced him, even though it has still to be determined how lasting they really are.

**SENATOR STENNIS** has announced that his inquiry must be secret for security reasons but has promised that a "sanitized" version of the testimony will be worked out so the public can be informed.

The Democratic senator from Mississippi has a judicial temperament, political skill and much experience in handling thorny questions. He managed the inquiry into the case of Gen. Walker and Pentagon information policy to the satisfaction of Congress and the President. He is not playing down his conviction that the Cuban question is extremely serious.

He has called for "hard and tangible" evidence and the naming of a source. This latter could be interesting, as diplomats from other countries who have been serving in Cuba are being freely quoted on the Washington grapevine. The matter is there for some heaty stuff before the